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PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

Shipping.

O. SACHRACH,
Agent.
Hongkong, November 1, 1886. 2059

THE DROUGHT IN THE KWANG-TUNG PROVINCE.

DISTRICTS AND CROPS MOST AFFECTED BY DROUGHT.—HIGHER AND LOWER LANDS.—EXHAUSTION OF GRAIN STOCKS.—KONG NAI.—LOW SUSTAINED BY THE PEASANT FAMILIES.

In the absence of Agricultural Returns, Harvest Forecasts, Farming Statistics, and the like means of enlightenment, it is next to impossible to gauge with any accuracy the extent to which the amount of damage to crops in this and the neighbouring provinces by the long continued drought. There is no longer room for doubt that the injury to the growing rice is irreparable. The temperature during the past two months has continued too high and the weather too dry, and where irrigation was impracticable much of the rice has died down in the fields.

A heavy fall of rain at the present juncture would develop rapidly and in some districts perhaps the rice crops would be saved. The amount of the saving would depend on the amount of rain, and on the amount of the damage to the crops in this and the neighbouring provinces by the long continued drought. There is no longer room for doubt that the injury to the growing rice is irreparable. The temperature during the past two months has continued too high and the weather too dry, and where irrigation was impracticable much of the rice has died down in the fields.

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DISTRICTS IN THE KWANG CHAU PREFECTURE.

Staple Products.
Nanhai Low lying Rice and Mulberry.
Pun U High Rice and root crops in equal proportions.

Shun Tak Low Mulberry.
Tung Kung High Sugar.
Huang Shan Low Fruit.
San U Low Palm leaves & fruit.
San Ning Low Miscellaneous.

San Ou Low Rice.
San Shui Low Rice and root crops.
Fa Un High Rice and root crops.
Lung Mun High Rice root, bamboo &c.
Tung Fa High Rice and root crops.

Tung Shing High Rice and root crops.
Tung Un High Rice and bamboo.

Root crops comprise taro, sweet potato, and manioc. The last are grown extensively on the higher levels where as an article of food and for the sake of the oil they contain. Where the operation of flooding the fields could be performed successfully the rice crop is good. In a number of instances it is not better than average. In the fields which are the cause of the drought, the rice crop is poor. The same is true of most of the land on the borders of mountain streams, brooks and rivulets which have not a perennial flow. Some of the streams, water, which are usually denominated rivers, are now confined to narrow channels navigable only for boats of the lightest draught. Such a stream is the so-called Tsing Fa river which has its rise in the mountains separating that district from Lung Mun. Near the head of the river, in the upper part of the Tsing Fa district its many small tributaries are one of the chief features of the landscape, a pleasing circumstance which has given to the district the name Running Stream. There and in the neighbouring districts of Lung Mun and Tsing Fa, much of the rice land is watered by hill-currents and with the drying up of these the hopes of the farmers are doomed.

Beyond the Kwang Chau prefecture isolated districts and groups of districts have suffered even more seriously than the districts of the Kwang Chau prefecture. Throughout Yung Tak in the Shiu Chau departments, and the two districts of Lo Hing, viz. Tung On and Sai Ning, the harvest is reported almost a total failure.

The same authorities inform that in two departments of Kwang Sai the state of things is even worse. It is certain that grain is being exported from our province to Kwang Sai, instead of being brought, as is customary, from Kwang Sai into Kwang Tung. We have, however, one consideration which is reassuring as far as Canton and the towns are concerned. During the past two years the Kwang Tung rice market has been largely supplied from Kwang Nain. Cien Kung Sai is sold as cheaply as that from Kwang Sai, and is of quality not inferior. In a year the quantity of Cien Kung Sai imported kept down the price to \$3.80 and \$4 per picul in spite of the widespread injury caused by flood and the deficiency of home grown rice. We are assured that the importation of rice from Kwang Nain during the winter and the coming spring will be adequate to meet the demand and will suffice to tide us over the time which must intervene before another, and, we trust, more satisfactory rice crop is ready to be gathered in.

Meanwhile, the principal sufferers are the poorest class of peasant proprietors who grow their own food. To them and their families a deficient harvest means a great deal of distress and suffering. Every year, when the old rice is spent (often not less than two months before the new rice crop is ready) the peasant class and their families must on potatoes and taro, vegetable congee and the like wretched fare. There are not many occasions in a week where they can even indulge in the luxury of potatoes and point if point means, as the learned in these matters say, eatish or some such delicate and savory morsel placed in the middle of the potatoes and intended to stimulate the imagination. We will go further and say that the otherwise ubiquitous taro is not in these regions always kept on hand and ready for use at the time of year when things are at their worst. This also we can testify from our own frequent and thirty experience. One cannot help feeling true sympathy for the simple and within certain definable limits, honest peasant farmers who roll industriously from

THE JOHORE TIN STREAMING COMPANY.

ANOTHER MINING BUBBLE.
The Straits Times has the following instructive remarks on mining speculation in the Malay States:

This short-lived concern is now added to the roll of mining bubbles. A few months ago public support was solicited upon the strength of puffing reports of so-called experts, whose practical experience of tin mining seems to have been surrounded with a mythical halo. We now understand that \$10,000 were furnished by unwary shareholders in England who had rushed into this 'grand' speculation; that month after month shipments of several tons of ore were promised by the enterprising manager of the company in Singapore; and that now the only notes in circulation are a worthless piece of paper, and an expenditure is a worthless property and eight hundred-weights of wasted ore!

When it is remembered that Mr. B. Vercoe, the brother of the manager and chief promoter of the concern, wrote only on the 21st December last, that the company had not yet received a single ton of ore, and that now the only notes in circulation are a worthless piece of paper, and an expenditure is a worthless property and eight hundred-weights of wasted ore!

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Mails.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUET, PORT SAID, MARSEILLES, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, BRINDISI, TRIESTE, VENICE, PLYMOUTH, AND LONDON; BOMBAY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, AND AUSTRALIA.

N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bills of Lading for HATTA, PERIAN, GULF PORTS, MARSEILLES, TRIESTE, HAMBURG, NEW YORK AND BOSTON.

SHIP ONLY LANDED AT PLYMOUTH.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship ZEPHYRUS, Captain M. DE HORSE, with Her Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this for LONDON, via BOMBAY AND SUET CANAL, on TUESDAY, the 9th November, at 4 p.m.

Cargo will be received on board until 10 a.m. on the day of sailing. Parcels and Specie (Gold) at the Office until 10 a.m. on the day of sailing.

Silk and Valuables for Europe will be transhipped at Colombo; Tea and General Cargo for London will be conveyed via Bombay without transhipment, arriving one week later than by the ordinary direct route via Colombo.

For further Particulars regarding FREIGHT AND PASSAGE, apply to the PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Office, Hongkong.

The Contents and Value of Packages are required to be declared prior to shipment. Shipments are not to be made without note to the terms and conditions of the Company's Black Bills of Lading.

Passengers desirous of insuring their baggage can do so on application at the Company's Office.

N.B.—This Steamer takes Passengers and Cargo for MARSEILLES.

E. L. WOODIN, Acting Superintendent.

Hongkong, October 28, 1886. 2055

Occidental & Oriental Steam-Ship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE, VIA THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

THE Steamship GAELIC will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 13th November, at 3 p.m.

Connection being made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan ports.

All Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; and same will be received at the Company's Office, until 5 p.m. the day previous to sailing.

RETURN PASSENGERS.—Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within six months, will be allowed a discount of 20% from Return Fare; if re-embarking within one year, an allowance of 10% will be made from Return Fare. Pre-Paid Return Passage Orders, available for one year, will be issued at a Discount of 25% from Return Fare. These allowances do not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to ports beyond San Francisco, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.